

WASHINGTON NEWS

An Associated Press dispatch, dated May 28, says: The Titanic disaster of April 15, in which 1,517 souls went down amid icebergs off the banks of Newfoundland, was the theme of speech, report and proposed legislation in the senate lobby. Senator William Alden Smith of Michigan submitted the report of investigation by the senate sub-committee, a feature of which was the condemnation of the captain of the steamer California for not going to the aid of the sinking vessel; delivered a speech in which he personally took much stronger ground reviewing the disaster and introduced measures designed to safeguard life in the ocean traffic.

One of the most important recommendations was for stricter inspection of vessels by the federal steamboat inspection service and the meeting of all the requirements of American navigation laws by every vessel clearing from American ports. It was one of the notable days of the present session of congress. Almost all the senators were in their seats and gave close attention. The galleries were crowded. The senate passed a joint resolution extending the thanks of congress and appropriating \$1,000 for a medal for Captain Arthur H. Roston of the Carpathia, and also a vote of thanks to the Carpathia's crew.

The resolution was introduced by Senator Smith at the conclusion of his speech. It was adopted immediately without reference to a committee.

Senator Brown of Maryland followed with a speech arraigning American navigation laws and drawing lessons from the accident.

The senate rejected by 12 to 60 the Cummins substitute in the house iron and steel bill, which would have provided for free ores.

A Washington dispatch, dated May 28, says: The precautions taken to protect American and other foreign interests in Cuba have been amply justified, in the judgment of the state department, based on reports that have been received from many sources and especially from owners of plantations and sugar fields and other industries. Up to the present time, it is declared, there has been no destruction of valuable property, but on the other hand the situation at Guantanamo is improving. One fact vindicating the state department's action in asking for naval protection of American interests is the threatening attitude of the rebels, according to information, apparently reliable, that comes to the department, that the insurgents are becoming desperate, and their leaders declare that if President Gomez does not procure the repeal of the Morau law prohibiting the organization of a strictly negro colony in Cuba he and the other leaders will demand contributions from the railroads and from the owners of estates in order to prolong the conflict and destroy the property of those that refuse. The present rebellion threatens to be long continued.

Representative Diferderfer of Pennsylvania, democrat, introduced a resolution in the house calling for a thorough investigation of the anthracite coal trade. He says the operators were using an excuse for alleged exorbitant prices the fact that recently they were compelled to

increase wages of their operatives. The increase, Mr. Diferderfer claims, amounted approximately \$5,000,000, while the increase charged to consumers had already amounted to more than \$15,000,000.

By a vote of 35 to 34 the senate voted down an amendment to the metal tariff bill offered by Senator Smith of Georgia, placing a large number of farming implements on the free list.

According to testimony given before the house judiciary committee, members of the bar who practiced before Judge Archbald, of the court of commerce, when he was United States district judge at Scranton, Pa., contributed to a fund for a vacation trip to Europe for the judge.

President Taft made an address at the Memorial day exercises at the Arlington national cemetery.

Theodore Roosevelt was denounced in the house by Representative Fitzgerald of New York as a peril to the nation.

Guerilla warfare is thought to be the program of the Cuban insurgents.

Mexican rebels accuse the United States of showing favor to the Madero government.

The senate passed a bill to permit the Central Railway & Bridge company to build a bridge across the Missouri river at Council Bluffs, Ia.

Two bills aggregating \$74,000,000 for levee work and improvements to the Mississippi river have been introduced into the house.

Congress celebrated Memorial day by passing the annual pension appropriation bill after fifteen minutes' consideration. The measure carried \$165,162,500, an increase of about \$3,000,000 over the amount appropriated by the house.

The house committee on appropriations has completed the sundry civil bill, the largest omnibus supply measure which comes before congress. The bill contains appropriations of more than \$125,000,000. This bill, with the deficiency bill, the last to be acted upon, completes the house committee's work. Chairman Fitzgerald declined to make public the provisions of the bill.

By a decisive vote of 45 to 11 the senate passed the house bill extending the eight hour principle to contracts involving labor on government work.

The house steel and iron tariff revision bill passed the senate May 30, 35 to 22, repealing the Canadian reciprocity law, putting a universal duty of \$2 a ton on print paper and cutting the duty on pig iron and ferro silicon. The bill now goes to conference with the house.

The metal bill went through the senate by default May 30, many of the republicans disappearing in order to allow the democratic bill, instead of the Cummins substitute, to go through and permit the president to veto a straight democratic measure. Only one republican, Senator Gronna of North Dakota, voted for the bill. The bill is the first of this session's series of house bills to

be voted upon by the senate. It reached the senate January 30, and has since been under consideration by the committee on finance.

The Indian appropriation bill, carrying \$13,070,303, was reported to the senate by the Indian affairs committee. The total appropriation is \$4,920,943 over the bill as it passed the house. Senator Curtis announced that the bill was \$3,000,000 in excess of the estimates and that he would oppose many of the new provisions.

The house passed the military academy appropriation bill carrying \$1,034,059, an increase of about \$125,000 from last year.

An Associated Press dispatch says: Representative Henry of Texas, chairman of the house rules committee and ranking member of the judiciary committee, announced his retirement from the last named committee. His chairmanship duties, he explained, had become so onerous that he found it impossible to attend to both committees.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated May 30, says: The president will have to send the senate a compilation of corporation tax laws returns under a resolution introduced by Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, aimed at revenue evasions by big corporations and adopted by the senate today. The measure, the vehicle of lively debate in the senate over the amassing of wealth by Carnegie and others, calls for "total

aggregates" of outstanding capital stock, indebtedness, income, uninsured losses, annual depreciation, interest on indebtedness, taxes, state and foreign taxes, receipts by dividends on stock of other federally taxed organizations and net incomes in the metal, mining, woolen, cotton and sugar industries.

Senator Porter J. McCumber of North Dakota, a member of the finance committee and chairman of the pensions committee, who has been investigating government expenditures, in a statement says he is in favor of a complete overhauling of the departments, with a view to promoting greater economy and business efficiency.

"This is one of the first problems that congress must take up at the beginning of the next session. The revelation of extravagance and waste that have come to view in connection with the work of the various committees of congress investigating the government departments show the paramount importance of the introduction of strict business methods," he declares.

"No private business concern would tolerate the extravagant methods employed in running some of the federal departments," says Senator McCumber. "None of the departments is free from faulty administration, and millions of dollars could be saved the government by simply adopting the methods of up-to-date business management. Until this is done the government will bear the burden of needless expense in many directions."

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